

Panaji, 29th November, 2013 (Agrahayana 8, 1935)

SERIES II No. 35

# OFFICIAL GAZETTE

## GOVERNMENT OF GOA

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

### EXTRAORDINARY

#### GOVERNMENT OF GOA

Department of Finance

Revenue &amp; Control Division

#### Notification

No. 15/1/2012-Fin (R&amp;C)

Whereas, there are many licensed premises selling and serving liquor in and around the areas surrounding Bom Jesus Basilica and Se Cathedral at Old Goa;

And whereas, during Novenas and Feast of St. Francis Xavier, which is celebrated at Bom Jesus Basilica, lakhs of devotees from within the State, Country and abroad participate in the religious ceremonies, prayer services and other festivities;

And whereas, many members of the public consume liquor in bars and restaurants and many others are seen consuming liquor in open spaces/public places in and around Bom Jesus Basilica and Se Cathedral at Old Goa;

And whereas, at times unruly behaviour is observed amongst members of the public which creates an undesirable situation and local law and order problems within the surroundings of this religious place; thereby hurting the religious sentiments of other devotees, who are present and who participate in various religious ceremonies and prayer services etc. This unruly behaviour is mostly attributed and related to consumption of liquor by such members of the public;

And whereas, it has become expedient in larger public interest, to prohibit the sale of liquor in packed bottles (retail sale) as well as serving of liquor in bars and restaurants for the purpose of consumption, in and around the surrounding areas of Old Goa Heritage complex site during the novenas and feast of St. Francis Xavier.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of Goa Excise Duty Act, 1964 (Act 5 of 1964) read with sub-rule (4) of rule 99 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Excise Duty Rules, 1964, the Government of Goa, considers it necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby prohibits the sale of liquor by all licensed premises for the sale of liquor located within limits of the Village Panchayat of Se Old Goa and further directs that such licenced premises shall be closed for 04 days with effect from 30-11-2013 to 03-12-2013, in view of the last 03 days of Novenas and Feast day of St. Francis Xavier.

The licensed premises having licence for "Bar and Restaurant" may be allowed to keep the restaurant open for serving food only. However, the Bar counter shall be closed and no liquor shall be allowed to be served on the said days. The owners of the licensed premises having "Bar and Restaurant" shall also display a notice board in the premises that no liquor will be served and that the restaurant will be open for serving food only.

The Commissioner (Excise) is required to constitute appropriate number of enforcement squads to maintain strict vigil in all areas and to ensure that no sale of liquor takes place in the

aforesaid area and in the event it is observed that licensed premises are found selling or serving liquor, than the Commissioner of Excise shall act in accordance with the provisions of law and further cancel the licence for willfully contravening the orders and directions of the Government. The liquor stock and other exciseable articles shall be confiscated and acted upon in accordance to provisions of law.

The Director General of Police is required to ensure that no one is found selling or serving liquor in licensed premises, bar and restaurants

and in other open spaces/public places and the Police Personnel deployed for the purpose of maintaining security and law and order shall act in accordance with provisions of law to prevent sale, serving and consumption of liquor, within the limits specified above during the novenas and feast of St. Francis Xavier.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

*Ajit Pawaskar*, Under Secretary, Finance (R&C).

Porvorim, 29th November, 2013.

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